

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and as such, is obligated by law to serve the PUBLIC interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what is good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our cherished democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it is more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. It is critical that the public have ready access to accurate, fair and BALANCED coverage of a wide range of issues that affect our communities.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to STRENGTHEN and consistently ENFORCE media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve far more than a returned postcard. The FCC has a public trust that I urge you to exercise in the interest of the people of this nation. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.